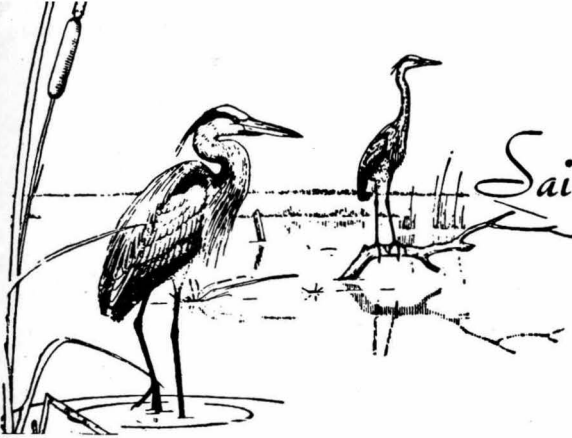




Saint Louis Audubon

Bulletin

January, 1967

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WILD RIVERS OF NORTH AMERICA

By JOHN D. BULGER

Third Baptist Church, Grand and Washington Aves.

Friday, January 27, 1967 — 8:15 P.M.

From serene shores where Henry David Thoreau camped along Maine's Allagash River to the craggy pinnacles of Dutch Creek in British Columbia, from the Buffalo River in Tennessee to the tundra country of the Arctic, *Wild Rivers of North America* relates a moving story of our wilderness waterways.

The color camera first concentrates with intensity upon such exciting rivers as the Allagash, Hudson and St. Lawrence, and then moves across northern Canada to reveal a whole world of wilderness streams all the way from the Northwest Territories to the seldom-explored, mysterious Ungava Peninsula. Photographer John Douglas Bulger flew over 12,000 air miles and exposed more than five miles of film to produce this one section alone.

Wild Rivers of North America features much that is unusual: swash-buckling French Canadian guides running boats with incredible skill through treacherous rapids; Eskimos bringing in the first white whale of the year; forest fires forty miles long burning unchecked. Scenes that to most people are only romantic images leap to life on such rivers as the Tree in the Northwest Territories and God's River in northern Manitoba.

An astonishing variety of wildlife is found along these river banks. Over sixty species of wild animals shown in their natural environment include the nutria (often called coypu), mink, fisher and pine marten, curlew, caribou and ptarmigan.

Here is an opportunity to view a wilderness of dimensions to stagger the imagination, and to set in motion the action needed to preserve remnants of this priceless heritage for future generations.

John Douglas Bulger, Ph.D., of Pulaski, New York, has lived an outdoor life since he was first able to toddle through the woods bordering his

(Continued on Page 2)

birthplace in Gouverneur, New York, an upstate village near the Adirondack Mountains.

A wide spectrum of interests led him early into a life well-seasoned with variety. When World War II began, he left Potsdam (N.Y.) State Teachers College to enlist as a pilot in the Army Air Force. Winning his wings (and a Commercial Pilot's license which he still holds), he went to Europe, to return at the end of the war and resume study.

Gaining his Bachelors Degree, he enrolled in Saint Lawrence University and obtained a Masters Degree in Education. Following this, he taught a year, then worked in education for the New York State Conservation Department.

Leaving the Department to do graduate study, he spent three years at Cornell University and obtained a Ph.D. in Wildlife Management. Accepting a job with the National Wildlife Federation, he later became their Director of Education and Northeastern Field Representative.

Dr. Bulger began writing at an early age and has contributed to many magazines. Photography, for years a hobby, became a creative adjunct to writing, and led inevitably to the making of movies. His wildlife films have been seen on television by millions, on nearly every station in the United States. His camera has focused on wildlife from the depths of the African bush to the ice floes of the Arctic Ocean.

Dr. Bulger early began a career as a public speaker. In college, following an assembly program in which he related experiences as a pilot in Europe, the dean predicted that one day he would choose lecturing as a profession. This prophecy came true when he joined the Lecture Department of the National Audubon Society.

THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY'S ANNUAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN ST. LOUIS IN 1969

By EARL H. HATH

St. Louis has been chosen as the meeting place for the National Convention in 1969. The Directors of National have changed the time from fall to spring, and the dates are April 25th to April 30th. This was done so that those attending could enjoy the warbler migration, as well as our great wealth of birdlife in the surrounding area.

I don't need to tell those of you who have attended a National Convention what a thrilling experience it is. About a thousand members will come from all parts of the United States. The programs are exciting and stimulating, and the field trips interesting and rewarding. Having the Convention in St. Louis will be a privilege for all our members, but also a responsibility, for it will entail a great deal of hard work and planning. We will need the support of all our many dedicated members in making this convention a success.

A great honor has been bestowed on our Society and St. Louis.

EAGLES - EAGLES - EAGLES

By HENRIETTA H. LAMMERT

Again the St. Louis Audubon Society has been asked to participate in the National Society's census of the American Bald Eagle.

The date is Saturday, February 18th. The area is the Mississippi River from the Winfield Dam north to Saverton.

Last year over 60 "Birders" braved the cold on February 19th and our official count was 158 eagles. Again we will have the able leadership of McClure Dudley and Gus Artus of Louisiana, and John Foster, Manager of the Clarence Cannon Wildlife Refuge at Annada. They will map the area and different groups will cover specified areas. The meeting place will be Duvall's Restaurant in Clarksville, Missouri, at 9:30 A.M. Clarksville is 1½ hours' drive from the Clayton Courthouse, it is reached by following interstate 70 to St. Peters, then north on Route 79.

The Warren Lammerts will have hot coffee and a warm fire for the "Birders" at their nearby farm. Will those wishing to participate, please call Mrs. Chris Arhos, ME 1-3090. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch has asked Earl Hath for permission to cover this exciting day.



ST. LOUIS AREA BIRDING IN 1966 IN BRIEF

By J. EARL COMFORT

The St. Louis Area birding within a 50 mile radius of the city resulted in a composite list of 276 species with the western tanager our best find. It was a first modern birding record for the region. Two of the extremely rare birds were found at the Shaw's Garden Arboretum on May 21st by Earl Comfort and Mark Peters and another in St. Louis County on August 21st by Frank Erb.

Three other rarities worthy of special mentioning were two fish crows by Dick Anderson and Kay Stewart along the Illinois Mississippi River levees below the Jefferson Barracks Bridge on the 10th of July, a whimbrel in St. Louis County on the 14th of May by Beulah Bedell, Helen Bowman and Frances Pickel and a glossy ibis in St. Louis County on June 5th by Bob Knickmeyer.

Some other species rare or fairly rare in 1966 in their ACU list order were common loon, horned grebe, white pelican, cattle egret, oldsquaw duck, white-winged scoter duck, Mississippi kite, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, Florida gallinule, ruddy turnstone, willet, buff-breasted sandpiper, sanderling, glaucous gull, Franklin's gull, Bonaparte's gull, long-eared owl, short-eared owl, red-shafted flicker, western kingbird, red-breasted nuthatch, Sprague's

pipit, hooded warbler, yellow-headed blackbird, common redpoll, red crossbill, white-winger crossbill, Bachman's sparrow and Smith's longspur. The total list was 4 under that of the previous year.

The family fringillidae (finches) led all families locally with 36 species, closely followed by the warblers which had 35 representatives. There were 26 kinds of shorebirds and 22 species of ducks.

The highlight of the birding season was the great warbler invasion in the spring. This was offset by a very poor fall shorebird migration to balance the year's birding results to a degree. Most of the St. Louis Audubon birding activity was at the popular Shaw's Garden Arboretum.

There were 12 1966 members of the local "200 Club," which, of course, includes birders who religiously kept lists and availed themselves of every opportunity to go afield. The list consists of Dick Anderson, who led with an outstanding 261, Kathryn Arhos with 247, Dr. Ralph Laffey, 230, Don Hayes, 218, Earl Comfort, 216, Mitzi (Mildred) Anderson, 213, Sally Vasse, 213, Winnifred Meloy, 212, Bob Guenther, 212, Helen Hill, 210, Earl Hath, 208, and Henrietta Lammert, 206. Sally's list consisted of 206 species in the immediate Grafton, Illinois, area. Winnifred is a new 200 member.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CONVENTION

By KATHRYN ARHOS

The 62nd National Audubon Convention was held in Sacramento, November 11 to 16. Our bus pulled up to the entrance of the El Dorado Motel, Convention headquarters, about 5 P.M. on the evening of November 11. Chris and I were with the Pre-Convention group. This trip was sponsored jointly by the Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies. We all were tired and anxious to get to our rooms. The motel is a huge complex sprawling affair, with a good sized pond complete with mallards, coots and pied-billed grebes. According to reports a few more interesting species show up occasionally. On the far side of the motel is a field sheltering a variety of wildlife.

After dinner we wandered in to the Convention headquarters. The place was a beehive of excitement. It was like Old Home Week. Meeting old friends, renewing acquaintances, catching up on the news, going over the list of names on the big board, glancing at the bulletin board for messages, friends trying to find each other. There was a fine program scheduled for that evening, but we couldn't walk away from all this get together until time to turn in for the night.

The next morning we heard about a pair of burrowing owls in the field behind the cabins also a report of a white-tailed kite seen flying nearby. And sure enough, Jim Lane was the one who reported this. Give Jim just five minutes in any place and he will come up with the whereabouts of the most interesting birds. He has written a book on birding spots in southern Arizona. From all reports he doesn't need to confine himself to this certain area. As soon as we could manage it, Alberta Bolinger and I got our scopes and searched the field for the owl. Alberta found the owl right away, about 150 yards down the field partly obscured by yellowish weeds, the same color as the bird. It began raining, so we moved our scopes under the overhang on the second floor. It was here we had a few "customers" eager to see what was so interesting in the field. A group of college students came by

and asked to look. We spent about an hour with them. They were intrigued at seeing the birds through the scopes and so close up. There was a flock of Brewer's blackbirds about 20 feet away. Meadowlarks were singing in the field. A sparrow hawk made use of the overhead wires less than 50 feet from us. One of the girls said she had never seen or heard a meadowlark before. We sent word back to a few people who were quite emphatic in their request to be notified if we saw the burrowing owl. Frida Campbell from Los Angeles was one and Jacques Valier, who is in charge of the Audubon Camp from Los Angeles, was another. They were both tied up in committee meetings and couldn't leave. After the rain stopped, Lois Thurston, who is from Maine, joined us when we decided to walk the field and get a closer view of the owl. We were able to get within 50 feet before it flew across the field and landed on a knoll. This time we got a good view of its feet and legs.

One of the most exciting parts of a convention is the field trips. And to many people that is the convention; but to the delegates and those putting the convention over, it is time to relax a little and have a good time. Field trips are always fun and are more so when shared with friends.

The evening programs are given to top drawer wildlife films and are greatly appreciated by the audiences. The day programs consist of reports on research and other projects, panel discussions, and talks on conservation.

It takes at least twelve buses to accommodate all who sign up for the trips. Two leaders are usually assigned to each bus, one a local person, the other often one from National Audubon. The Audubon Societies have been fortunate in having the colleges and Resource Agencies of the State 'loan' qualified persons to attend the Convention and to act as leaders on the field trips. These leaders, because of their background, are able to impart knowledge of the flora and fauna, the history of the area, past and present land uses, and other information that might be pertinent. This is of valuable assistance to the visiting conservationists from many parts of the United States.

These opportunities are also educationally rewarding for the leaders; they meet and work with some of the most outstanding naturalists, scientists, educators and outdoor specialists in the nation. They can return to their classrooms and various departments with renewed enthusiasm and knowledge of some of the latest teaching techniques to impart to their students and their Agencies.

Our first trip in Sacramento was to the Sacramento Wildlife Refuge which was about one hours driving time from the motel. We were somewhat surprised to pass field after field where rice had been harvested. This is the main crop in this area. We were amazed to learn of the complicated process that rice farming involves. Canals have to be dug and dredged to a certain level. Heavy and expensive machinery is used for plowing and disking. A complicated irrigation system must be maintained. And after all that the geese sometimes raid the fields before it can be harvested.

Our bus pulled up to a stop at the refuge headquarters. We were given a fifteen minute break before going on into the marshes. A stiff chilly wind greeted us. The sky was overcast with dark clouds here and there. It was nice to get back in the bus and be on our way. A huge jack rabbit hopped across a field. Blackbirds were flying about. In a few minutes a flock of ducks shot up, followed by more ducks and more ducks. The sky was full of numerous pintails, and mallards, baldpates, shovelers, green-winged teal, gadwall and cinnamon teal. Then the geese took to the air. Huge flocks of snows mixed with white-fronted geese. The people in the bus were shouting and calling to each other. Roland Clement, our leader, couldn't be heard.

There were yellow-headed blackbirds in the marshes nearby, which he was trying to point out to us. There were tricolored also. Bitterns (American) and pheasants joined in wild melee. The bus pulled into a parking space and we all piled out. For a while we just stood and looked. The sky was a fire-works of feathers. We all trudged down a road bisecting a large marsh. Chris and I were trailing the group when a flock of fifty or so sandhill cranes took off in the air. We called out, but no one cared. We were all birded out, at least for the moment.

Our bus took us back to headquarters where we had a wonderful box lunch, with plenty of hot coffee, which was most welcome. After lunch there was a lot of milling about. Two very dark buteos flew overhead. Some one called to Sandy Sprunt to identify them. The hawks were blackish with smudges of white in the wings. He said they were redtails but he didn't intend to go to war about it. A water pipit was feeding a few feet from one group. No one paid any attention, not even the pipit.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

BY ST. LOUIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Compiled By J. EARL COMFORT

Orchard Farm, Mo. All points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center; along Mississippi River, all on Missouri side, approximately same territory as last year: bottomlands and sloughs 75%, open tilled fields 25%. December 31, 1966; 7:10 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; ground bare and frozen, floating ice on river. Sixteen observers in 2 parties. Total party hours, 18½ (16 on foot, 2½ by car; total party-miles, 63 (8 on foot, 55 by car).

Double-crested cormorant, 1; Canada goose, 153; mallard, 13,207; gadwall, 12; pintail, 7; green-winged teal, 4; American widgeon, 8; canvas-back, 248; lesser scaup, 11; common goldeneye, 109; ruddy duck, 2; common merganser, 33; red-tailed hawk, 14; bald eagle, 2; marsh hawk, 1; sparrow hawk, 6; bobwhite, 14; herring gull, 3; ringbilled gull, 65; mourning dove, 14; fireat horned owl, 1; short-eared owl, 1; yellow-shafted flicker, 8; pileated woodpecker, 4; red-bellied woodpecker, 16; red-headed woodpecker, 16; hairy woodpecker, 3; downy woodpecker, 16; horned lark, 77; blue jay, 35; black-capped chickadee, 12; Carolina chickadee, 13; tufted titmouse, 10; white-breasted nuthatch, 4; brown creeper, 3; Carolina wren, 8; mockingbird, 4; robin, 1; loggerhead shrike, 1; house sparrow, 12,111; European tree sparrow, 15; eastern meadowlark, 65; western meadowlark, 1; red-winked blackbird, 1623; rusty blackbird, 14; common grackle, 664; brown-headed cowbird, 16; cardinal, 41; American goldfinch, 11; slate-colored junco, 126; tree sparrow, 115; white-crowned sparrow, 7; white-throated sparrow, 1; swamp sparrow, 1; song sparrow, 14; Lapland longspur, 6; total 58 species (1 additional race). Participants: Sam Alfend, Mildred Anderson, Richard Anderson, Kathryn Arhos, Tim Barksdale, Andy Bromet, Henry Colter-yahn, Earl Comfort (compiler), Earl Hath, Henrietta Lammert, Warren Lammert, Bertha Massie, Joel Massie, Winnifred Meloy, Sally Vasse, George Winter.

IN MEMORIAM

DR. HAROLD A. BULGER

The Board of Directors and membership of the St. Louis Audubon Society feel deeply the loss of Dr. Harold A. Bulger who passed away recently.

Dr. Bulger made many contributions as a Board member of the St. Louis Audubon Society with excellent articles and lectures. He was an associate professor emeritus at Washington University School of Medicine, having been associated with the University since 1924. He was also a physician emeritus at Barnes Hospital and a life member of the St. Louis Medical Society. He served the Webster Groves Nature Study Society as president in 1959 and 1960. He was also past president of the St. Louis Astronomical Club and on the board of the Academy of Science.

Dr. Bulger served as anthropologist for Harvard expeditions to the southwest and was considered an authority on the Indians in that area. He was interested in the many phases of nature and in the history of our country. He was also an excellent photographer. His passing is a great loss to us.

GET A NEW MEMBER

\$8.50 covers your membership in St. Louis Audubon Society and The National Audubon Society; includes a subscription to Audubon Magazine.

Membership Application

St. Louis Audubon Society
5079 Waterman Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

Please enroll me as a member of the St. Louis Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society.

I enclose a check for \$8.50.

Name.....

Address..... Zip.....

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